



**MINUTES  
OF THE  
ARIZONA OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATING COMMISSION  
(AORCC)  
OF  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
Meeting of March 6, 2012  
Arizona State Parks  
1300 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Jeff Bell called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

AORCC Members Present:

William "Bill" Schwind, Chair  
Jeffrey Spellman  
Benjamin Reeves  
Wayne Lackner

AORCC Members Absent:  
member

Bill Feldmeier, Statutory

member

Larry Voyles, Statutory

Arizona State Parks Staff Present:

Jay Ziemann, Assistant  
Director, Arizona State Parks  
(ASP)  
Doris Pulsifer, Chief of  
Resources & Public Programs,  
ASP  
Dawn Collins, Research &  
Marketing  
Annie McVay, Planner

Also present was Jimmy Simmons representing Larry Voyles on behalf of Arizona Game and Fish.

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

AORCC members and staff introduced themselves.

### C. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approval of Minutes from the October 13, 2011 meeting.**  
**MOTION** by Commissioner Reeves, **SECOND** by Commissioner Spellman to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2011 AORCC meeting. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### E. REPORTS – *(this item was taken out of order)*

#### 1. **Legislative Update.**

Jay Ziemann reported on various bills going through the system that impacts State Parks:

HB 2362 (the Fann Bill). This is a bill that would protect Arizona State Parks revenue generated by the parks from legislative sweeps. HB 2362, authored by Representative Karen Fann, (R-Prescott), has received House approval (50-5-4). A hostile amendment by Rep. John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills) was defeated. The bill is now awaiting an endorsement from the Senate and will be heard in the Natural Resources Committee and then the Appropriations Committee. This bill is critical to State Parks mostly because the biggest parks that have the highest visitation and revenue are located on BLM property. The parks located on the Colorado River, Alamo Lake, Red Rock, Lyman Lake all came to State Parks through an act of Congress called the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RP&P). Basically those lands were gifted to Arizona State Parks, but in return there are some rules that Parks has to abide by. One we have to charge the public reasonable, we can't charge outlandish fees. Second, Parks has to remain principle manager of those properties. Third, and what has become problematic in the last three years or so is that revenues that are generated on the property need to be reinvested back in the parks system and can't be used for some other governmental purpose. In the last three years, Arizona State Parks has had nearly \$82 million raided from their funds by the Arizona legislature. Nearly \$60 million of that came from revenues generated by our parks. Most of those revenues are generated at these "BLM" parks. BLM took great umbrage with what the legislature was doing and asked Parks to try and do our best to try and protect those revenues. The resolution is, if the rules of the patent process of the RP&P Act are not followed, the land reverts back to the federal government. Therefore, State Parks is trying to protect those revenues.

Mr. Ziemann reported that there have been a couple of efforts to re-establish the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. Both of those efforts ended up in Representative Kavanagh's House Appropriations

Committee and he refused to hear either one of them so both measures died. One was a referral to the ballot (House Concurrent Resolution 2047). Additionally, HB 2208 would not only reestablish the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund but also the Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF).

Mr. Ziemann explained that the Arizona Parks Heritage Fund was enacted by voters in 1990 and directed \$20 million from the Arizona Lottery to be divided equally each year between State Parks and Game and Fish. Approximately two-thirds of the State Parks money was to provide funds for matching grants for historic preservation, outdoor recreation and trails. About one-third remained with State Parks for specific purposes.

In response to the economic downturn and decline in tax revenue, the Legislature swept the state parks allocation into the general fund in 2010 and inexplicably, eliminated the Heritage Fund Statute and the funding in July 2011. They also took the LTAF as well. However, the Game and Fish portion was not affected. The Legislature then bonded against that revenue so that they could get even more money to buy down the deficit.

HCR 2047 and HB 2208 would have reestablished the language back in Arizona Revised Statutes and would have set up another \$10 million dollars annually from the Arizona lottery monies.

In response to a question by Commissioner Schwind, Mr. Ziemann explained that conceivably the bill could be reintroduced as an addition to another bill in the Senate or a strike everything amendment in the House, but that would have to be heard by the end of next week. For this session, the idea is probably dead. In going forward, it can certainly come back again.

He discussed how \$10 million dollars from 1990 does not fund very much in these times. \$10million dollars from 1990 is equivalent to about \$5.5 million today. Discussions with the Heritage Alliance Group has been that if this goes on the ballot in the future it needs to be for a greater amount in order to accomplish anything.

In response to another question by Commissioner Schwind, Mr. Ziemann stated that the Lottery has actually rebounded a little bit and is doing fairly well in spite of the economic downturn.

Mr. Ziemann also reported that on the overall state budget, the Governor and the Legislature are once again talking to each other. Talks broke down the first couple of weeks. He went on to explain that one of the first steps in the budget discussions is to determine how much money there is. There is not more than \$600 million dollars in disparity between what the Governor thinks and the Legislature is willing to agree upon as to how much will be available for the next year. Once the amount is agreed upon, they can start to decide on how to divvy it up.

**D. PROPOSED PLANING PROCESS FOR THE 2013 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP).**

Doris Pulsifer provided some background information regarding the SCORP. She explained that the SCORP is a five-year planning document mandated by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. The purpose of the Act is to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources. For over 40 years the LWCF program has provided recreation opportunities in partnership with state and local communities to address issues pertaining to urban sprawl, protection of wildlife, green space, and resources protection for public and recreational use. The Act provides for the States funds for planning, acquisition and development. In order for any state to receive LWCF funding, a plan must be developed every five years. The plan “shall contain an evaluation of demand and supply of outdoor recreation facilities.” The SCORP is kind of a blueprint that guides how the LWCF apportionments are distributed to eligible grant recipients for outdoor use. The goal of SCORP is to direct the use of the LWCF apportionment, while the objective is to describe the role of the LWCF, provide a basis for determining each states eligibility and to ensure relevant, influential and timely planning for the state use of its LWCF apportionment. She explained that in order to have the final report ready to submit to the National Park Service in December and implement in January 2013, the report would have to be ready to submit to the Parks Board in November for their approval.

Dawn Collins followed by presenting a proposed overall planning process.

She explained that the primary purpose of the process is to identify needs and opportunities for recreation improvement throughout the state as well as identify any gaps. From there goals are set and an implementation program is developed to meet those goals. In doing that it is necessary to develop an open project selection process. So

basically that information is used to determine how our recreation money should be spent and establish a process to apply for funding.

The last time a SCORP was done there was eighteen months to complete the process. Unfortunately, there is only nine months left to complete the new SCORP. Given the limited staff and resources, she stated that staff is proposing to start with the 2008 SCORP and update it. That would mean starting with the issues that were identified at that time and determining if those issues are still valid. The updates would include a Provider Survey, which would ask to identify issues in order of importance and if there are any issues that need to be added or deleted. She stated that we would also want to ask providers questions about the impact of the economic recession on agency/organization outdoor recreation operations and programming.

In terms of demand, we are hopeful we can use data collection from 2008 to the present from the National Survey on Recreation & the Environment (NSRE). Staff is currently checking on the cost. The good news about the SCORP is that we are not required to do a statewide survey every each time we do a SCORP. She discussed a plan of how staff proposes to accomplish what is absolutely required and asked for comments and suggestions from AORCC members. She explained that staff would have liked to do a Public Survey, such as the one done for 2008, but there is not enough time or resources to do a full statewide survey. Therefore as an alternative for the Public Survey, staff suggests doing a convenience sample of interested parties, distributed through the Arizona State Parks website and other partners websites, social media, distribution to partners so that they can involve their constituents regarding impacts of the last few years on things such as recreation access, operations, programming. Questions from the last SCORP will be reviewed to determine which ones seem timely and can be retained. Depending on what data we receive and can use from NSRE, we may be able to delete the questions pertaining to demand. She explained that we would be looking for a relationship between variables (provider's reports of changes in the last few years and the public's perception of changes in outdoor recreation opportunities.

Staff and AORCC members discussed the planning process and date timeline as follows:

## Working Outline—2013 Arizona SCORP Process Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Planning & Public Involvement Process

- **Working Group:** Establish a Working Group (AORCC members, staff, grantees and recreation providers) to guide SCORP progress and draft grant criteria (OPSP)
- **Partner Feedback:** Survey grant recipients, other outdoor recreation providers and other members of the public to help identify issues and supply/demand for outdoor recreation opportunities, needs and facilities
- **Internet Survey:** Put survey questions on State Parks webpage to solicit additional comments on priorities for regional and statewide outdoor recreation opportunities
- **Wetlands Component:** Consult with Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan component
- **Related Planning Efforts:** Summarize trends and evaluate relevant findings from recent outdoor recreation, open space and tourism planning efforts
- **Public Meetings:** Solicit comments at AORCC and ASPB meetings and public meetings as deemed necessary, as well as on-line when presenting SCORP planning process, draft plan and final plan

Mar- 2012                      Present Planning Process to AORCC and ASPB (March 21); form Working Group

April- 2012                    Implement Web-based Survey to recreation providers & public

May 2012                      Data analysis

End of June-Early July      Working Group draft grant criteria (OPSP) incorporating all survey findings

July- 2012                      Present draft grant criteria (OPSP) and SCORP plan outline to AORCC

July - 2012                      Prepare preliminary SCORP plan

Aug 2012                      Submit preliminary plan to Working Group and NPS for pre-approval

Sept - 2012                      Present draft plan to AORCC/ASPB (Sept 12) for release for public comment



- Sept. 2012            Release draft plan for public comment; Sept. revise FY013 grant criteria
- Oct. 2012            Submit final plan to AORCC (Oct 19) for recommendation to ASPB (Oct 24)
- Nov. 2012    Submit final plan to ASPB for approval and submittal to Governor
- Dec. 2012    Submit final plan to Governor for approval and final submittal to NPS
- Jan. 2013    Implement 2013 AZ SCORP over next five years

Ms. Collins went over the list of individuals that could potentially be invited to serve on the SCORP working group. The list included :

Rafael Payan – Pima County Natural Resources  
Lee Eseman – Arizona State Parks – Regional Mgr.  
Jimmy Simmons – Arizona Game & Fish  
Shawn Blackburn – Mohave County  
Melissa Elkins – Arizona Office of Tourism  
Don Applegate – Bureau of Land Management  
RJ Cardin – Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Director  
Mary Dahl – Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation  
John Vuolo – Pinetop-Lakeside Parks & Recreation  
Cathy Wise – Audubon  
Cate Bradley – National Park Service  
Judy Weiss (or designee) – Coconino County  
Sharon Wallace or Celest Gordon – Tonto National Forest  
Jody Latimer – Arizona State Land Department  
Darla Sidles – Superintendent Saguaro National Park  
Glenn Schlottman – Arizona Office of Tourism  
Rob Owen – City of Kingman

The group also made some additional suggestions, which included:

Dawn Melvin – Arizona Office of Tourism (for Tribal representation)  
Jeff Williamson – Phoenix Zoo  
Marilyn Mack – Be OutdoorsAZ  
Jeff Kratske – Olson Associates  
Bill Schwind – as Ex Officio Member – AORCC Representative

**MOTION** by Commissioner Reeves, **SECOND** by Commissioner Spellman to approve the proposed planning process for the 2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and

further move that AORCC establish a working group comprised of AORCC members, Grant staff, representative grant recipients and other outdoor recreation providers and members of the public to guide the 2013 SCORP planning and public involvement process and to reevaluate LWCF/LRSP grant priorities incorporating the SCORP study findings. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**F. CALL TO THE PUBLIC** - There was no response from call to the public.

**G. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF AORCC  
PROCEDURE REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE EVENTS**

In response to Commissioner Schwind's question regarding AORCC membership, Ms. Pulsifer stated that Jeff Bell had not yet been replaced by the Governor's Office. She explained that at the last meeting, Commissioner Bell had announced that he was only working part time with the City of Apache Junction and, therefore, was no longer eligible to serve on AORCC, although his membership would not have expired until December 2012. The new AORCC roster issued by the Governor's Office listed the two new members and also the Interim Director of State Parks, Bill Feldmeier, but Commissioner Bell's name had been deleted.

**H. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was declared adjourned by Chair Schwind at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs





Minutes of AORCC  
March 6, 2012